

Tourist news 2025 in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony)

New road cycling routes in Rotenburg

Nine new circular road cycling routes have been designated in the district of Rotenburg (Wümme). These include four shorter routes, known as ‘loops’, ranging from 60 to 70 kilometres in length, as well as five more challenging day routes of at least 100 kilometres. Among them is the Königsschleife (King’s Loop), a 204-kilometre circular route covering the entire district. The route system offers smooth asphalt roads, minimal traffic and plenty of space to get into an aerodynamic position and really pick up the pace. All road cycling tours primarily follow low-traffic roads and paved farm tracks. These routes often lack dedicated roadside cycle paths, meaning the roads can be officially used by cyclists. The routes are not signposted but are available as GPX tracks for digital navigation. Downloads are available on Strava, Komoot, and the official website: www.nordwaerts.de/aktiv-entspannt/radfahren/rennradtouren/

Space Magic Aurich

A space theme park is set to open in March on the top floor of the Caro shopping centre in Aurich. The multi-entertainment adventure world for the whole family spans 4,800 square metres across three levels and houses 12 attractions and a restaurant. The attraction links digital and analogue elements. In the restaurant, visitors can enjoy a perfect view of space and watch the astronauts on the ‘windows’ floating by while they construct a space station. Other attractions under the same roof include Niedersachsen’s biggest connected climbing and trampoline park as well as the state’s only Ninja Tag course, the biggest indoor leisure park for every age as well as the only Pixel Game Arena in northwestern Germany, the first Valo Augmented play area in northern Germany, the first Funwall climbing hall as well as north Germany’s only escape rooms for children. With such a large complex, sustainability is an important consideration: besides solar panels, the complex uses energy-saving lighting, and, as far as possible, all of the products used are manufactured locally and are environmentally friendly. www.spacemagic.fun/en/

Hundertwasser Museum in Uelzen

To mark the 25th anniversary of the renovation of Uelzen railway station, the Hundertwasser-Bahnhof Uelzen association is planning to open a Hundertwasser architecture museum later this year. The exhibition will showcase 40 buildings designed by the Austrian artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, ranging from small city cafés to churches, nurseries, residential buildings and industrial structures in Germany and Austria. The exhibition will be housed in the association’s rooms within the station building and will offer free admission. www.hundertwasserbahnhof.de

New exhibition greenhouse at Hanover's Berggarten

The new exhibition greenhouse at Hanover's Berggarten is set to open at the start of the 2025/2026 winter season. Covering around 1,300 square metres and reaching up to nine metres in height, the new space will be divided into three sections. One area will allow plants from the Canary Islands, previously housed in the old greenhouse, to grow freely. A second section will serve as an exhibition space for changing displays of botanical treasures from the Berggarten. Between these special exhibitions, visitors can relax in a seating area with a kiosk, palm trees and a terrace. The third section will feature a heated water basin showcasing the giant tropical water lily, while in winter, exotic butterflies will be on display.

www.hannover.de/Herrenhausen/Herrenh%C3%A4user-G%C3%A4rten/Berggarten/Neues-Ausstellungshaus/Ein-neues-Schauhaus-f%C3%BCr-den-Berggarten

Packrafting tours in the Upper Harz Mountains

rafts on trails – the new tour provider offering guided land and water adventures in the Upper Harz Mountains – invites you to experience Pure Packrafting tours, an introduction to this innovative water sport, as well as combined hiking and packrafting day tours. The water-based part of the adventure takes place at the idyllic reservoir of the Oker Dam. Designed for small groups of up to eight participants, these tours provide a unique immersive outdoor experience. All participants receive professional equipment, including a rucksack, watersports gear, an emergency rain poncho and a seat cushion for breaks in the forest or by the shore. During the colder months, participants wear waterproof paddling clothing for safety on the water.

www.harzinfo.de/erlebnisse/wandern/gefuehrte-touren/rafts-on-trails

Sensoria – House of scent and flavouring

The Sensoria – House of scent and flavouring interactive world opened in Holzminden at the end of 2024. The town has been considered the international centre of the scent and flavouring industry ever since vanillin was patented in 1874. The interactive exhibition space for scent and flavouring lies between the Weser river and the historical Old Town and spans some 850 square metres – including a permanent exhibition, a function room with aroma bar, and a fragrant roof garden. The exhibition covers seven subject areas dedicated to everyday encounters with flavouring and scents, for example mornings in the bathroom. www.sensoria-holzminden.de/en/home/

Tourism Highlights 2025

350 years of the Großer Garten, Hanover

Since its creation in 1675, the Great Garden has been the oldest and most impressive of the four Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen. To mark its anniversary year, the focus will be on the garden's development and upkeep over the centuries. A varied programme invites visitors to experience this masterpiece of garden design throughout the year. Planned events include an exhibition, a concert in the Orangery and special anniversary celebrations during the KunstFestspiele Herrenhausen.

www.hannover.de/Herrenhausen/Service-Aktuelles/Presse/Jubil%C3%A4um-2025-Gartenkunst-aus-Meisterhand-350-Jahre-Gro%C3%9Fer-Garten

700 years of garden culture, Hanover

Hanover's garden culture, with its many parks and green spaces, offers a daily 'luxury for all'. Under the theme '700 Years of Garden Culture', 21 historical gardens and cemeteries from different eras will take centre stage. A key feature of the project is the 'Green Line', as 16 of the 21 gardens are located along light rail routes 4 and 5. These parks and green spaces can be reached in just a few minutes on foot from a total of eleven tram stops. Another highlight is the exhibition of four golden royal carriages at the Herrenhausen Palace Museum, where they will remain on display until 2030.

www.visit-hannover.com/Sehensw%C3%BCrdigkeiten-Stadttouren/Hannover-f%C3%BCr-Reiseveranstalter/Stadt-der-G%C3%A4rten

250 years of Caroline Mathilde, Celle

Marking the 250th anniversary of Danish Queen Caroline Mathilde's death on 10 May, the anniversary year offers a rich and diverse programme for culture enthusiasts, active holidaymakers and families. Highlights include an international temporary exhibition at Celle Castle, the Hygge castle festival, virtual reality tours and a sculpture exhibition by artist Ottmar Hörl. In addition, readings, concerts, workshops and many other events with regional and Danish partners will explore the fascinating question of how history can become an inspiring experience for the present.

www.250jahre-carolinemathilde.de/en/

350 years of the Celle Castle Theatre

The Celle Castle Theatre or Schlosstheater is one of the oldest Baroque theatres still in operation in Europe. The historic venue gave the modern theatre its name, seamlessly blending tradition with contemporary performance. To mark this milestone, a special anniversary season is planned. The highlight and grand finale will be the Schlossfestspiele Celle (open-air theatre festival at Celle Castle), taking place from 24 May to 29 June.

<https://schlosstheater-celle.de/termine-1/schlosstheater>

25 years of Autostadt Wolfsburg

Founded as a showcase for Volkswagen AG at its headquarters in Wolfsburg, Autostadt was realised for Expo 2000 in Hanover. It was designed to attract visitors to Wolfsburg, provide a premium experience for new car deliveries, and serve as a communication platform for the Volkswagen Group. Now, 25 years later, more than 42 million people have visited the site. Details of the 2025 anniversary programme remain under wraps.

www.autostadt.de/w/von-der-idee-zum-erlebnisort

50 years of the German Fairy Tale Route

Under the theme ‘50 Years of the German Fairy Tale Route – fabulous and legendary’, towns along the route will celebrate their anniversary from April 2025 to spring 2026. Following in the footsteps of the famous Brothers Grimm, the Fairy Tale Route stretches from their birthplace in Hanau through Hamelin and Buxtehude to Bremen. Festivals, museum tours, fairy tale trails, castle visits and special events in inns and hotels will bring the magic of fairy tales, myths and legends to life – with a few surprises in store for the anniversary year. www.deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com/en/experience/events/50-anniversary

175 years of the North Sea Spa on Borkum

In 2025, the largest of the seven East Frisian Islands will celebrate 175 years as a recognised North Sea spa resort. Welcoming over 300,000 overnight visitors annually from across Germany and beyond, Borkum boasts a rich and fascinating history. Once a divided island, it has evolved into what is affectionately called ‘the most beautiful pile of sand in the world’. The anniversary programme is currently in development. www.borkum.de/en/

1,000 years of Nienburg

Under the motto ‘Remember. Experience. Shape.’, the town of Nienburg on the Weser river will celebrate its 1,000-year history with events throughout the year. The highlight will be a grand festival weekend on 20-22 June, featuring live shows and performances in the castle square and along the Weser river. A beautifully illuminated path will connect the main venues, culminating in a festive parade and a spectacular laser show over the Weser.

<https://1000jahre-nienburg.de>

1,050 years of Lingen (Ems)

Lingen will mark its 1,050th anniversary with a year-long celebration involving local residents, clubs, associations and businesses. A packed programme of events will run for 52 weeks, combining longstanding traditions with newly conceived highlights. The centrepiece of the jubilee year will be the festival weekend from 20-22 June, when Lingen’s marketplace will be transformed into a massive open-air stage. The outdoor concerts are free. In addition to the two concert evenings, Sunday is dedicated to families. A colourful supporting programme with a wide variety of attractions for all residents

brings the festival weekend to a close. www.lingen.de/politik-rathaus-service/unsere-stadt/stadtjubilaeum-2025/stadtjubilaeum-2025.html

40 years of UNESCO World Heritage in Hildesheim

On 1 June, the German UNESCO Commission and the UNESCO World Heritage Sites Germany association will celebrate the 20th anniversary of UNESCO World Heritage Day. The national opening ceremony will take place in Hildesheim, which has even more to commemorate. Both St Mary's Cathedral and St Michael's Church will mark 40 years since their inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List. A fascinating programme of events is planned to honour this double anniversary. www.hildesheim-tourismus.de/welterbetag

Niedersachsen Day in Osnabrück

For the first time, the City of Peace is hosting this statewide festival, now in its 38th year. Under the motto 'Osnabrück makes it possible', the city showcases its historical, cultural and innovative vitality. The event highlights volunteer work, culture, history and the diversity of Niedersachsen, with top stars performing on four major stages. In addition, the city will have a stage at Neuer Graben, while several smaller stages will be available for associations and institutions. The festival is complemented by street food areas and themed zones. Plans also include nine exhibition areas featuring around 200 associations and organisations, as well as an Osnabrück Mile dedicated to local start-ups, cultural institutions and leisure facilities. <https://erleben.osnabrueck.de/en/experience-city/lower-saxony-day/>

25 years of the *Rats* musical in Hameln

Who would have thought back in 2000 that *Rats* would become such a long-running success? Originally created as a one-off attraction for visitors to the EXPO 2000 in Hanover, this musical about the Pied Piper has since become a beloved staple. The show's appeal lies in its diverse range of catchy tunes – from waltzes and marches to ballads and rap. Performances take place every Wednesday afternoon throughout the summer. www.hameln.de/de/der-rattenfaenger/rattenfaenger-musical-rats

New accommodation for 2025

Berg & Tal Braunlage

Located in the heart of Braunlage, with views over the spa gardens and just a short walk from the town centre and the Wurmberg cable car, Berg & Tal offers 28 hotel rooms and apartments of up to 154 square metres. The former cowshed has been transformed into a breakfast area serving regional specialities, while a small milk bar next to reception offers drinks from the afternoon onwards. Guests also have 24/7 access to the Späti, a self-service area where they can purchase drinks and snacks via an honesty box. Additionally, a garden yoga space for up to eight people is available for private hire. The surrounding area boasts numerous walking trails, with guided walks available on request. www.bergundtal.de/en/

The Farmhouse No. 50

The Farmhouse No. 50 is a 4-star hotel located on the outskirts of Osnabrück. The Barlag family has transformed this former farmhouse into a stylish, modern retreat, featuring eleven en-suite rooms, nine apartments and five suites, all equipped with air conditioning, flat-screen TVs and complimentary toiletries. Some rooms even have a balcony. Additional amenities include a retro-style fitness centre, a café and a farm shop offering fresh regional produce. Almost all furniture pieces are crafted in the in-house carpentry workshop or by local craftsmen. Upon request, they can be purchased, as well as the exclusive hand and shower towels or bed linen. The city centre of Osnabrück is just a few minutes away by car, bus or bicycle. www.farmhouse.de/

Hampton by Hilton Celle

Celle's latest addition, the Hampton by Hilton, has opened in the historic royal residence city, offering 141 rooms across four floors with modern 3-star comfort. Located near the French Garden and New Town Hall, the hotel features a contemporary open-lobby design, integrating the reception, bar and breakfast restaurant. Guests also benefit from a conference room and a 24-hour fitness centre. In addition to standard and family rooms, the hotel offers accessible and wheelchair-friendly options, some with kitchenettes or rooftop terrace access. Designed with sustainability in mind, the building meets the Platinum DGNB certification and KfW 55 energy standards, using low-emission materials. www.hilton.com/en/hotels/hajeex-hampton-celle/

Ringhotel Forellenhof Walsrode

Set in the tranquil countryside of Walsrode, the family-owned Hotel Forellenhof opened a new wellness area and 36 new rooms in a new extension. The hotel offers the perfect retreat for relaxation. A centrepiece of the 800 square metre wellness area is the 60 square metre swimming pool, complemented by indoor and outdoor saunas, spacious relaxation zones and multiple treatment rooms – including a couples' treatment room featuring a natural stone bathtub for two.

The hotel's restaurant serves seasonal, regional and international dishes, accompanied by fine wines or the house-brewed Schnuckenbräu beer. On sunny days, guests can enjoy the terrace overlooking the fountain pond. A wide range of leisure activities, including cycling tours, cultural experiences and professionally planned holiday programmes, complete the experience. <https://forellenhof.de/>

Biohotel WildLand Wietze

Set on the spacious natural grounds in the southern part of Lüneburg Heath, the Biohotel WildLand will introduce two additional energy-efficient timber-framed houses from March 2025, seamlessly blending into the overall design. 26 new rooms will be added, including deluxe rooms with wellness bathrooms, family rooms with sleeping alcoves, maisonette junior suites, and accessible rooms. Additionally, a small wellness area will be available, featuring two saunas, a relaxation area, and treatment rooms.

Situated on a former estate and surrounded by ancient oak trees and historical half-timbered architecture, sustainability and regionality are at the heart of the hotel's philosophy and are reflected in both its cuisine and architecture. www.wildland.de/en/home

HIIVE – Silt & Sand Langeoog

After delays, the opening will now take place in April 2025. The Silt & Sand beach hotel occupies a prime location on the dunes – with a front row view of the sea. With individual, modern, cosy rooms, it will attract sport lovers and young families alike. The hotel features a 24-hour reception, a bistro serving regional dishes, as well as a spa and wellness centre, including a sauna. www.siltandsandhotel.de/en/hotel/langeoog/

Bed und Bahn Seesen

The spacious, light-filled apartments in the old railway station, which dates back to 1865, have been carefully restored and equipped with modern comforts. Each apartment is uniquely furnished with high-quality interiors and a fully functional kitchen. Large windows create a welcoming atmosphere, while amenities such as a flat-screen TV and free Wi-Fi ensure a comfortable stay. <https://bedandbahn.de/en/>

Camping pods Südbrookmerland

A unique overnight stay awaits at Niedersachsen's fourth-largest inland lake, Großes Meer, where guests can now book camping pods. These compact yet comfortable wooden cabins accommodate two to four people within an 8 square metres space, featuring two large double beds, a small kitchenette with a hob and essential kitchen utensils. Shared sanitary facilities and water supply are located in a nearby building. Each pod comes with its own private terrace, and thanks to infrared heating, they remain cosy well into autumn. During the day, visitors can enjoy water sports or unwind in the sauna by the lake. www.camping-grossesmeer.de/campingpods

New exhibitions in 2025

'Shards of Fortune' at Fürstenberg Castle Museum, until 27 April

The special exhibition 'Shards of Fortune' at Fürstenberg Castle Museum runs until the end of April and takes visitors on a journey through a period of political and social upheaval while telling the romantic story of Victoria Louise, the only daughter of Kaiser Wilhelm II, and the Guelph Prince Ernst August. As a wedding gift, the couple received a royal-scale dinner service from the provincial government of Hanover – comprising nearly 700 individual pieces. The exhibition presents this extraordinary service on a grand scale for the first time, allowing visitors to discover both the aristocratic couple's history and the remarkable story behind this unique gift. www.fuerstenberg-schloss.com/events/scherben-zum-glueck/

'Leandro Erlich – Weightless' at the Wolfsburg Art Museum, until 13 July

The world is turned upside down at the Wolfsburg Art Museum. Artist Leandro Erlich transforms the exhibition hall into a surreal universe, playing with perspectives and gravity – bringing the moon to Earth, suspending a house in mid-air, placing clouds on the ground and allowing visitors to seemingly float weightlessly in a spaceship. Some of the large-scale installations appear to defy the laws of physics, offering visitors a fresh perspective. This is the first exhibition of Erlich's work in Germany and has been specially conceived for Wolfsburg Art Museum. www.kunstmuseum.de/en/exhibition/leandro-erlich-weightless/

'What the Quantum?! The Quantum Year 2025 Exhibition in Göttingen' at the Forum Wissen, 27 March – 14 September

The 'What the Quantum?! The Quantum Year 2025 Exhibition in Göttingen' at the Forum Wissen explores quantum mechanics and its history, which is closely linked to the University of Göttingen. It traces the development of quantum physics from 1900 onwards and highlights its impact on modern technologies such as lasers, solar cells and quantum computers. A key focus is the breakthrough of quantum mechanics in 1925 in Göttingen, which revolutionised physics. The exhibition also sheds light on the collaborative nature of scientific discoveries and the influence of political and societal factors on scientific progress. Interactive elements, including hands-on experiments, artistic installations and contributions from young people, provide an engaging insight into the world of quantum physics. An extensive supporting programme featuring lectures, concerts and workshops rounds out the exhibition. www.uni-goettingen.de/de/3240.html?id=7683

Reopening of the Herrenhausen Palace Museum April 2025

To mark the 350th anniversary of the Großer Garten of Herrenhausen, the Herrenhausen Palace Museum has been redesigned and will reopen in April 2025. The renovation includes a modern and visitor-friendly connection between the Großer Garten and the museum. In the future, visitors will be able to enter both the garden and the museum via the palace's east wing with a single ticket. One of the key highlights is the exhibition of the historical carriages of the Royal House of Hanover. Previously housed in the Historical Museum of Hanover, these magnificent carriages will find a new home in the west wing of the palace during the museum's renovation. The permanent exhibition will reconnect the carriages with their original display location, where they were showcased from 1866 to the 1950s. Visitors can experience these opulent vehicles within a modern museum setting. <https://presse.hannover-stadt.de/pmDetail.cfm?pmid=27562>

'Friedensreich Hundertwasser' at Museumsquartier Osnabrück, 6 April – 31 August

The exhibition on Friedensreich Hundertwasser explores his vision of a paradise on Earth, founded on a harmony with nature and creative expression. Featuring around 80 works, including prints, photographs and film footage, the exhibition highlights Hundertwasser's environmental and social critique. Interactive stations and reflective questions encourage visitors to engage with his artistic philosophy. Hundertwasser's works are deeply rooted in a childlike perspective of the world and the exhibition aims to amplify this viewpoint, giving children a voice while helping adults reconnect with that sense of wonder. Introductory texts and selected quotes from Hundertwasser offer deeper insights into his artistic and philosophical legacy. www.museumsquartier-osnabrueck.de/ausstellung/friedensreich-hundertwasser/

'London – Copenhagen – Celle' at the Residence Museum Celle, 10 May – 12 October

In 2025, the Residence Museum in Celle is hosting a major exhibition on the Struensee Affair, one of the greatest political scandals of the 18th century. At the heart of the exhibition are the mentally unstable Danish king, the freedom-loving Queen Caroline Mathilde, and their personal physician, Johann Friedrich Struensee, who sought to revolutionise the Danish state. The exhibition explores these historical events while also raising contemporary questions about personal fulfilment, change and reform. www.250jahre-carolinemathilde.de/en/

'So Close to Heaven – Clouds and Horizons in Art' at Kunsthalle Emden, 24 May – 9 November

This exhibition is dedicated to the themes of clouds and horizon lines in art, spanning from the symbolic depiction of clouds in the Middle Ages to their central role in Impressionism. Focusing on modern and contemporary art, it brings together works from different periods and genres that explore clouds as a key motif. Special emphasis is placed on the emotional

significance of humankind's relationship with the sky, as well as current topics such as climate change and environmental protection. <https://kunsthalle-empden.de/ausstellungen/dem-himmel-so-nah>

The Caroline Mathilde Sculpture Project by Ottmar Hörl on the forecourt of Celle Castle, 16 August – 14 September

Ottmar Hörl, renowned for his iconic series of figures such as Wagner in Bayreuth and Beethoven in Bonn, will unveil a new temporary installation in front of Celle Castle to mark the anniversary of Queen Caroline Mathilde. For the first time, he is dedicating a project to a historical female figure. This installation will bring the 'genius loci' of the site to life in a striking visual way and is set to become a public favourite. www.250jahre-carolinemathilde.de/en/

Permanent Exhibition: 'The Adventure of Abstraction – From Modernism to the Present' (collection display) at Sprengel Museum Hanover, from 23 April

This permanent exhibition showcases a significant part of the museum's collection, tracing the development of abstract art from the 20th century to today. Across 19 rooms, various aspects of abstraction are explored, including key works by Kurt Schwitters and El Lissitzky, such as the reconstructions of the Merzbau and the Abstract Cabinet. The exhibition features paintings, sculptures, graphic art, photography, large-scale media installations and abstract films. Alongside masterpieces of classical Modernism by artists like Piet Mondrian, Paul Klee and Hans Arp, contemporary works by Pia Fries, Pipilotti Rist and Wolfgang Tillmans are also on display. A special focus is placed on Hanover's role in the development of abstract art. An additional section examines art during National Socialism and includes Lotte Lindner and Till Steinbrenner's site-specific work Under the Beach. <https://www.sprengel-museum.de/ausstellungen/aktuell/abenteuer-abstraktion>

Sustainability in Niedersachsen

Langwarde Groden – Natural Wonder of 2024

In 2024, the Langwarde Groden was named Natural Wonder of the Year by the Heinz Sielmann Foundation and the Deutscher Wanderverband (German Hiking Association). This remarkable nature and bird conservation area is located at the northern tip of the Butjadingen Peninsula and is part of the Niedersachsen Wadden Sea National Park. A circular trail of just over five kilometres runs through the Groden, offering visitors an immersive experience of this unique landscape. www.butjadingen.de

Theatrical Climate Pilgrimage Trail, Hanover

The 24 kilometre-long Climate Pilgrimage Trail follows the narrative of Lukas Jüliger's graphic novel *Unfollow*, leading walkers upstream along the river Ihme, which flows through the heart of urban Hanover. Ticket holders receive access to an audio play and animated elements from the novel, as well as a wealth of philosophical, biological and ecological insights, encouraging deeper reflection on the relationship between humankind and the planet. After purchasing the ticket, the walk can be undertaken at any time of choice, and it can also be repeated or spread over several days. Tickets and access are valid until June 2025. www.unfollow-now.de

Net zero boating in the Wadden Sea

On the Niedersachsen coast, Nordseeheilbad Borkum GmbH has launched a project to develop electric charging stations for watercraft, aiming to advance net zero recreational boating in the Wadden Sea and National Park. The initiative involves identifying potential locations for charging infrastructure to create a comprehensive network along the coastline. Feasible travel distances between charging points for battery-powered boats are being assessed to ensure the gradual expansion of navigable routes from the Dutch border to the Kiel Canal. In the long term, the stations will also be accessible to commercial vessels and land-based electric vehicles. A final location map will be published once the suitable sites have been established. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport. www.mellumrat.de/wattfossilfrei-embiss-prowattfahrt

Horse country

From 15 March 2025: Bückeburg horsemanship at the Princely Equestrian Academy

Germany's only equestrian academy is dedicated to ethical riding according to the teachings of old masters and aims to captivate visitors with the spectacle of non-violent horsemanship and to promote sustainable riding. The performances showcase the most beautiful horse breeds preserved today with the noble trained stallions of the equestrian academy from the pinnacle of Baroque horsemanship – just like in the heyday of this form of equestrianism, when there were many stud farms at Europe's noble courts. In 2004, under Alexander Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe, the over 400-year-old riding school of the former counts of Schaumburg-Lippe was converted into the dynamic Princely Equestrian Academy, a private enterprise of Wolfgang and Christin Krischke. www.hofreitschule.de/startseite

19-27 July 2025: 145th Bad Harzburg racing festival

The Harzburger Rennverein (Harzburg horse racing club), founded in 1880, is one of Germany's oldest and welcomes over 50,000 visitors to its racing festival every year, where they can enjoy exciting flat races, steeplechases and the very special lake chases (to crown Bad Harzburg's 'King of the Lake') on the two Sundays as well as a comprehensive supporting programme on non-race days. www.bad-harzburg.de/event/145-bad-harzbuerger-galopprennwoche

23-27 July 2025: 76th Oldenburger Landesturnier (Oldenburg Tournament)

The Oldenburger Landesturnier is a unique symbiosis of elite sport and family atmosphere and is known and loved far beyond the regional borders. An exciting sports programme with plenty of competition trials, a range of entertainment and an extensive supporting programme for the whole family enthuse spectators every year. www.oldenburger-landesturnier.de

17 August 2025: 89th Duhnen mudflat racing in Cuxhaven

The world-famous horse race on the seabed, held since 1902 in the Wadden Sea off Duhnen, is one of the most spectacular events in the international racing calendar. No other event in the world offers a comparable equestrian spectacle, where racehorses and harness racers compete against the backdrop of one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. www.duhner-wattrennen.de/startseite

Tba: Summer festival at the State Stud Farm

Niedersachsen's State Stud Farm in Celle is opening its doors again to present historical carriages and the large dressage quadrille of 24 studs at the historical centre in Celle, as well as other attractions. Also on show will be old handicrafts, which are still carried on at the State Stud Farm. Savoir vivre, fashion, riding equipment, home & garden decor, and a wide range of cuisine round off the event. landgestuetcelle.de/de/veranstaltungen/sommervergnuegen-celler-hengstparade/

30 October–02 November 2025: AGRAVIS Cup in Oldenburg

The AGRAVIS Cup is an event for old and young equestrian and sports enthusiasts as well as breeders, and is held in the EWE Arena in Oldenburg. The programme includes international equestrian sports with well-known riders from all over the world, as well as entertainment and a huge gala evening. Visitors can immerse themselves in lively exhibitions and adventure experiences devoted to equestrian sports and everything horsey. www.agravis.de/de/ueber-agravis/sponsoring/agravis-cup-oldenburg/

Special garden shows in Niedersachsen

From April 2025: 700 years of garden culture, Hanover

Hanover's garden culture, with its many parks and green spaces, offers a daily 'luxury for all'. Under the theme '700 Years of Garden Culture', 21 historical gardens and cemeteries from different eras will take centre stage. A key feature of the project is the 'Green Line', as 16 of the 21 gardens are located along light rail routes 4 and 5. These parks and green spaces can be reached in just a few minutes on foot from a total of eleven tram stops. Another highlight is the exhibition of four golden royal carriages at the Herrenhausen Palace Museum, where they will remain on display until 2030. www.visit-hannover.com/Sehensw%C3%BCrdigkeiten-Stadttouren/Hannover-f%C3%BCr-Reiseveranstalter/Stadt-der-G%C3%A4rten

18 April – 5 October 2025: Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens) in Bad Zwischenahn

In 2002, the park hosted the first-ever State Horticultural Show in Niedersachsen. After that, the area underwent further development under the name Park der Gärten (Park of Gardens). It is now home to over 40 exemplary gardens, making it the largest collection of show gardens in Germany. There are also various guided tours of the gardens, personal advice on gardening matters and readings in the Park der Gärten. www.park-der-gaerten.de/en/

4-8 September 2025: 73rd Flower festival in Wiesmoor

Northern Germany's biggest flower festival takes place in the East Frisian town of Wiesmoor. The flower festival has been held each year around the first weekend in September since 1952. Each year, new flower royalty is crowned. The chosen flower queen and the two princesses represent the town at various events throughout Germany. The whole of Wiesmoor is transformed into a vibrant sea of flowers for the event. www.tourismus-wiesmoor.de/bluetenfest

Festivals and top events in Niedersachsen 2025

16-25 May 2025: Göttingen International Handel Festival

The International Handel Festival in Göttingen is the world's oldest festival of Baroque music. The shows will take place in different locations across the town and whole region, at both covered and open air venues, featuring well-known stars from the Baroque music scene as well as talented newcomers. www.haendel-festspiele.de/en/

22 May–8 June 2025: KunstFestSpiele in Hanover Herrenhausen

The international KunstFestSpiele is a performing arts festival offering an impressive programme of musical theatre, concerts, theatre, performances, installations and much more besides. Over 20 productions will be presented at around 60 events in the Royal Gardens of Herrenhausen and the city of Hanover. From installations to in-house productions and premieres – there’s a bit of everything! www.kunstfestspiele.de/en/

27 May – 20 September 2025: 33rd International Fireworks Competition in Hanover

Every year, visitors to the Fireworks Competition are mesmerised by the beautiful works of art in the sky created by the world’s leading pyrotechnicians to the accompaniment of suitably atmospheric music. Germany’s first fireworks competition has long since become a classic in its field. www.feuerwerk-hannover.de/en/

6–8 June 2025: Norderney White Sands Festival

Traditionally, the Whitsun weekend marks a special date in the calendar for sports fans and party-goers on the island of Norderney. Thousands of visitors flock to the North Sea island to watch Germany’s best windsurfers and beach volleyball players. At night, the festival grounds on the beach transform into a party animal’s paradise. www.whitesandsfestival.de

11–18 June 2025: 35th Emden-Norderney Film Festival

Located by the North Sea, the International Film Festival is among the country’s most highly regarded, not just in Germany but around the world too. It’s become a meeting place for numerous representatives of the film industry in Germany and Northwestern Europe. Featuring 100 films shown on seven screens, the festival is first and foremost a popular major event, drawing in around 24,000 visitors who value the warm, personal atmosphere and the chance to see filmmakers up close. www.filmfest-emden.de/en/

20–22 June 2025: Hurricane Festival in Scheeßel

Three days of the finest bands: around 65,000 fans are expected at this indie, rock, pop, electronic and hip-hop festival every year. International stars, German acts and emerging artists will be there to rock the four stages again this year. www.hurricane.de/en/

4–13 July 2025: Marksmen Festival (Hanover Schützenfest)

The drill command of ‘Im Doubliertritt, Marsch!’ (‘In double step – march!’) is the traditional starting signal for the world’s longest procession of marksmen – one of the highlights of this festival, which has been celebrated since 1529. On the first Sunday of the festival, some 10,000 members of marksmen associations, folklore and carnival societies, joined by various companies and institutions, form a traditional procession through the Old Town. Over a period of ten days, the world’s largest marksmen festival offers lots of things to see and experience,

from the Bruchmeister (ceremonial stewards) to marksmen skills, high-speed funfair rides, marquees and Hannover's cult drink, Lüttje Lage, consisting of beer and a shot, served in separate glasses, but drunk simultaneously! www.schuetzenfest-hannover.de

17–20 July 2025: Deichbrand Festival at Cuxhaven Sea Airport

This popular rock festival spans four days and is a festival for both young and old. There is discounted admission for children aged between eight and twelve years old accompanied by an adult guardian. Around 60,000 fans of indie, rock, pop, electronic, and hip-hop beats are expected – and all of them can stock up on everything they need in the dedicated festival supermarket. www.deichbrand.de/en/

30 July – 3 August 2025: Summertime @ Norderney

This music festival is held on Norderney's north beach. A festival of different genres in a maritime setting. There's something to suit every musical taste – pop, rock, party music and even classical feature every year. www.summertime-norderney.de

30 July – 17 August 2025: Maschsee Festival in Hanover

A chance to experience that holiday feeling and maritime flair in the middle of town! Over 19 days, visitors to Niedersachsen's largest local festival can take a culinary and artistic trip around the world. Year after year, international cuisine, free concerts, water sports activities, open-air dance evenings and an exciting programme for children guarantee a non-stop holiday feeling for everyone. www.maschseefest.de/en/

9–10 August 2025: M'era Luna Festival Hildesheim

M'era Luna is a metal, gothic rock and industrial music festival in Hildesheim, which attracts around 25,000 fans in quirky dress every year. The dark music scene's big get-together is held at the airbase in Drispstedt. As well as performances by around 40 bands, the festival also features readings, a vibrant market area and the Gothic Fashion Show, which has become something of a tradition. www.meraluna.de/en/

Tba: International Music Festival in Buxtehude

Since 2010, the International Music Festival has been held every year in Buxtehude, presenting stars of the world stage as well as up-and-coming talents from Germany and further afield. With its large audience and unusual concept, the classical festival has long since established itself as a cultural mainstay in the region. www.klassik-buxtehude.de

5-6 September 2025: Pflasterzauber in Hildesheim

At Pflasterzauber (Pavement magic), nine venues in central Hildesheim host performances by artists from Germany and around the globe. Niedersachsen's biggest street art festival has been held every year since 2008, captivating thousands of visitors with fantastic, whimsical, spectacular and astounding performances of the highest standard. www.pflasterzauber.de

10–16 November 2025: 39th Brunswick International Film Festival

Originally founded by 20 university students, who were dissatisfied with the films on offer at the city's cinemas, the Brunswick International Film Festival is now the oldest film festival in Niedersachsen. Cinephiles can look forward to many galactic film adventures. A wide range of new films and famous classics will be screened over seven days, comprising international and local productions, from short films to documentaries, which will attract film lovers in their droves to the Lion City. One highlight of the festival is the presentation of the ten film awards – public and panel awards – for European debut and second films, the EDDA international short film prize and the Die Europa acting award. www.filmfest-braunschweig.de/en/

FURTHER INFORMATION

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About TourismusMarketing Niedersachsen/TMN (The Tourist Board of Lower Saxony)

The TMN is the central point of contact for tourism in Niedersachsen. The company was founded by the Niedersachsen Ministry of Economics, Transport, Housing, and Digitalisation in 2001 and, since January 2014, has been a wholly state-owned company. The TMN's remit is to competitively position Niedersachsen within the national and international tourism market in cooperation with regional tourism stakeholders. The focus is on marketing Niedersachsen as a tourist destination both regionally and nationally, and on developing brand strategies, online portals and quality management systems for tourist attractions.